REMARKS

As noted above in the listing of the claims, Applicants cancel without claims 13-16, 19-23 and 25 which the Office Action rejects, as well as claim 21 against which the Office Action raises an objection. The cancellation of the claims is made merely to expedite the prosecution of this application and should not be construed as Applicants acquiescence to the rejections raised in the Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in future continuing applications.

Allowed Claims

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation allowance of claims 1-12, 17, 18 and 24.

Claim Objections

The objection to claim 21 is moot as this claim is canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 25 is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. Re. 36,207 of Zimmerman.

In view of cancellation of claim 25, this rejection is moot and hence will not be discussed further here.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action rejects claims 13-16 and 23 as being obvious over Zimmerman-in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,077,609 of Manelphe and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,646,677. In addition, the Office Action rejects claims 19-20 as being obvious over Zimmerman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,489,940 of Richardson. Finally, claims 21-22 are rejected as being obvious over Zimmerman in view of Richardson and further in view of Manelphe.

These rejections are moot as the rejected claims are canceled, as noted above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance

of the application. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 439-2514 if there are any remaining issues.

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